

Introduction

Good morning. My name is Nancy Schiff. I am a Senior Project Manager for the MassHealth Pharmacy Program. I am here to present staff testimony on the adoption of amendments on regulations 130 CMR 450: *Administrative and Billing Regulations*, 130 CMR 506: *Health Care Reform: MassHealth: Financial Requirements*, 130 CMR 520: *MassHealth: Financial Eligibility* and 101 CMR 613: *Health Safety Net Eligible Services*

These amendments were filed as emergency regulations and went into effect on May 1, 2023. EOHHS may adopt a final, revised versions of the regulations taking into account relevant comments and any other practical alternatives that come to its attention.

Background

Regulation 130 CMR 450 describes the administrative and billing rules for all MassHealth providers.

Regulations 130 CMR 506 and 130 CMR 520 describes the financial requirements for MassHealth applicants and members.

Regulations 101 CMR 613 describes the eligible services for the Health Safety Net (HSN).

All of these regulations include language about copayments.

Description of Changes

EOHHS is amending these regulations to eliminate copayments between May 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024 during the unwinding of the federal public health emergency (PHE). This will ensure that the MassHealth agency complies with federal requirements barring increased copayments for members before redeterminations are completed after the end of the federal PHE.

The regulations have also been amended reflect that copayments are waived for 12 months post-pregnancy, including after March 31, 2024.

The Health Safety Net will align with MassHealth for reasons of operational efficiency. There is no impact on or waiver of copayments for individuals covered by the Children's Medical Security Plan.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed amendments are expected to increase annual aggregate MassHealth expenditures by approximately \$4,700,000 and Health Safety Net expenditures by approximately \$800,000.

This concludes my testimony.

Thank you.